

Message Text

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TAGS: TGEN, PINT, CH
SUBJECT: TENG HSAIO-PING'S ADDRESS TO NATIONAL SCIENCE
CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: IN A SPEECH TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE
TENG HSIAO-PING PUT FORTH PRAGMATIC VIEWS ON THE SCIENTIFIC
INPUT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE BLUNTEST LANGUAGE HE
HAS USED IN A PUBLICIZED ADDRESS SINCE HIS REINSTATEMENT IN
1973. THE VICE CHAIRMAN TOLD CONFERENCE DELEGATES THAT "THE
WORK OF MODERNIZATION" NOW HAS REPLACED "THE POLITICAL RE-
VOLUTION" AS THE MAIN FOCUS FOR THE WORK OF THE CHINESE
COMMUNIST PARTY. HE GAVE A CLEAN BILL OF POLITICAL HEALTH TO
ALL WHO ARE WILLING TO WORK DILIGENTLY FOR "SOCIALIST SCIENCE,"
REGARDLESS OF THEIR FAMILY BACKGROUND OR THE DEGREE OF PURITY
IN THEIR POLITICAL THINKING. THE SCIENTISTS MUST BE FREE
TO DEVOTE THEIR ATTENTION TO THEIR WORK WITHOUT UNDUE DIS-
TRACTION IN THE FORM OF POLITICAL STUDY OR MEETINGS.

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TENG CALLED FOR ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC EXCHANGE
WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS FORTHRIGHT ADDRESS PUTS TENG'S
PRACTICAL VIEWS ON RECORD AS PUBLIC POLICY, DEMONSTRATING
ONCE AGAIN HIS POSITION AS THE DOMINANT POLICYMAKER IN
CHINA'S LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY

2. THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE HAS PROVIDED VICE CHAIR-

MAN TENG HSIAO-PING WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO OUTLINE HIS PRAGMATIC VIEWS ON MODERNIZATION IN THE BLUNTEST LANGUAGE WHICH WE RECALL HIM USING IN A PUBLICIZED ADDRESS SINCE HIS REINSTATEMENT IN 1973. ON MARCH 18 TENG TOLD THE CONFERENCE'S 6,000 DELEGATES THAT IT WAS TIME TO DO AWAY WITH EMPTY TALK, FORMALISM AND OSTENTATION AND TO CONCENTRATE ON PRACTICAL RESULTS, EFFICIENCY AND SPEED. TENG SAID THAT DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION THE WORK OF THE CCP HAD BEEN FOCUSED ON "THE POLITICAL REVOLUTION" BUT NOW THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON "THE WORK OF MODERNIZATION."

3. EMPHASIZING THAT BACKWARDNESS MUST BE PERCEIVED BEFORE IT CAN BE CHANGED, TENG OBSERVED THAT CHINA'S SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL FORCES STILL ARE VERY WEAK, FAR FROM MEETING THE NEEDS OF MODERNIZATION. TENG ILLUSTRATED CHINA'S BACKWARDNESS BY COMPARING CHINA'S AVERAGE ANNUAL GRAIN OUTPUT PER FARMWORK (1,000 KG.) WITH THAT OF THE U.S. (50,00 KG.) -- HIS ONLY REFERENCE TO A SPECIFIC FOREIGN COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, HE NOTED THAT LABOR PRODUCTIVITY IN CHINA'S IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY IS "ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF ADVANCED LEVELS ABROAD." THE VICE CHAIRMAN UPHOLD THE POLICY OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE BUT EXPLAINED THAT INDEPENDENCE DOES NOT MEAN SHUTTING THE DOOR ON THE WORLD. HE CALLED FOR ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC EXCHANGE AND EXPRESSED THANKS TO FOREIGN FRIENDS WHO HAVE HELPED CHINA IN SCIENCE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TECHNOLOGY.

4. TENG CALLED THE MASTERY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THE CRUX OF ACHIEVING THE FOUR MODERNIZATIONS BECAUSE WITHOUT ACHIEVING MODERN S & T, MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. IN A STRIKINGLY "REVISIONIST" COMMENT, TENG STATED THAT THE MORE UP-TO-DATE CHINA'S ECONOMY BECOMES, "THE MORE OUR PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM"

5. LAYING THE IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDWORK FOR CHINA'S SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT, TENG ADDRESSED THREE KEY REQUIREMENTS: (1) UNDERSTANDING THAT SCIENTISTS ALSO ARE WORKERS; (2) DEVELOPMENT OF A LARGE FORCE OF "RED AND EXPERT" S & T PERSONNEL; AND (3) A CLEAR DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE PARTY COMMITTEES IN CHARGE OF S & T UNITS AND THE UNITS' TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

6. SWEEPING AWAY THE RADICALS' ATTEMPT TO AROUSE CLASS ANTAGONISM BETWEEN MANUAL WORKERS AND INTELLECTUALS, TENG DECLARED THAT, "THOSE WHO LABOR, WHETHER BY HAND OR BRAIN, ARE ALL WORKING PEOPLE IN A SOCIALIST SOCIETY."

TENG SAID THAT ONLY POLITICAL REACTIONARIES, OPPOSED TO THE PARTY AND TO SOCIALISM COULD BE CONSIDERED "WHITE" (I.E., REACTIONARY ELEMENTS). ANYONE WHO WORKS DILIGENTLY FOR "SOCIALIST SCIENCE" CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A "WHITE" ELEMENT, INCLUDING EVEN THOSE INTELLECTUALS WHO STILL RETAIN A "BOURGEOIS WORLD OUTLOOK." THE PARTY'S PRESCRIPTION THAT SCIENTISTS SHOULD SPEND FIVE-SIXTHS OF THEIR TIME ON SUBSTANTIVE WORK (LEAVING ONLY ONE-SIXTH FOR POLITICAL MEETINGS) WAS A MINIMUM, TENG STRESSED, INDICATING THAT SOME UNITS MAY HAVE TAKEN THE RULE TOO LITERALLY. HE SAID THAT SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME STUDYING POLITICAL BOOKS AND PARTICIPATING IN MEETINGS UNRELATED TO THEIR WORK. DEFINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTY COMMITTEES AND TECHNICIANS, TENG SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PARTY SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOGISTICS, PERSONNEL MATTERS AND PLANNING, LEAVING THE TECHNICIANS FREE TO CARRY ON THE S & T WORK.

7. THE BLUNTNESS WITH WHICH TENG SPOKE TO THE CONFERENCE AND THE FACT THAT HIS WORDS WERE PUBLICLY RELEASED DEMONSTRATES ONCE AGAIN TENG'S PREEMINENT ROLE IN FORMULATING THE PRC'S POLICIES ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. TENG HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE PAST TO HAVE MADE SIMILAR REMARKS GIVING PRIORITY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OVER POLITICAL MOBILIZATION, BUT NOW HIS THINKING HAS BECOME PUBLIC POLICY. SIMILAR PERFORMANCES BY TENG AT THE OTHER MAJOR CONFERENCES SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR, INCLUDING AN EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND ONE ON OVERSEAS CHINESE AFFAIRS, WOULD FURTHER SOLIDIFY HIS POSITION AS A DOMINANT POLICYMAKER IN CHINA'S LEADERSHIP.
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